

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Prior to further substantive examination, please amend the claims as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) An isolated ~~nucleic acid comprising a~~ DNA sequence encoding an infectious RNA molecule a PRRS virus of a PRRS virus strain deposited under accession number CNCM I-1102, wherein said DNA sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:18 at the 5' end of the sequence of said PRRS virus strain.

22. (Currently Amended) A transfected host cell transfected with a DNA sequence encoding an infectious RNA molecule encoding a PRRS virus of a PRRS virus strain deposited under accession number CNCM I-1102, wherein said DNA sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:18 at the 5' end of the sequence of a PRRS virus strain wherein said transfected host cell expresses the encoded PRRS virus.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid in the form of a plasmid comprising the isolated ~~nucleic acid~~ DNA sequence of claim 21.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently amended) An isolated ~~nucleic acid comprising a~~ DNA sequence that encodes chimeric virus comprising a genome-length_infectious RNA clone of PRRSV virus strain deposited under accession number CNCM I-1102 wherein the chimeric virus expresses the ORF 7 of PRSS strain ATCC VR2332 instead of the ORF 7 of PRSS strain

CNCM I-1102, wherein said isolated sequence comprises a sequence of SEQ ID NO:18 at its 5' end.

33. (Currently amended) The isolated ~~infectious RNA of claim 25~~ DNA sequence of claim 21, wherein said ~~nucleic acid comprises said recombinant nucleic acid~~ DNA sequence further comprises at least one nucleic acid sequence encoding a virulence marker and/or a serological marker particular to said wild-type RNA virus that has been modified by cloning techniques to effect a change in the virulence and/or a change in the serological immune response to said infectious RNA molecule.

34. (Currently amended) The isolated ~~infectious RNA of claim 33~~ DNA sequence of claim 33 wherein the nucleic acid sequence encoding a virulence marker and/or serological marker is located within an open reading frame that encodes a structural protein of said virus.

35. (Currently amended) The isolated ~~infectious RNA~~ DNA sequence of claim 34 wherein said open reading frame is ORF7.

36. (Currently amended) The isolated ~~infectious RNA~~ DNA sequence of claim 33 wherein said nucleic acid further comprises at least one additional heterologous nucleic acid sequence.

37. (Currently amended) The isolated ~~infectious RNA~~ DNA sequence of claim 36 wherein said heterologous nucleic acid encodes an antigen for stimulating an immune response in pigs.